

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) An electric vacuum cleaner comprising:

an electric blower for generating a suction air stream;

a dirt separation member for separating and collecting therein dirt particles from the suction air stream; and

a centrifugal separation member for centrifugally separating remaining dirt particles from a suctioned air stream that has passed through the dirt separation member, the centrifugal separation member being disposed in the dirt separation member,

wherein the dirt separation member is provided at a bottom portion thereof with a communication aperture in communication with the electric blower.

5. (Original) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 4, wherein a filter is installed at the communication aperture.

6. (Currently Amended) An electric vacuum cleaner comprising:

an electric blower for generating a suction air stream;

a dirt separation member, having an inlet opening, for separating and collecting therein dirt particles from the suction air stream introduced thereinto via the inlet opening;

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and

a centrifugal separation member for centrifugally separating remaining dirt particles from a suctioned portion of the suction air stream introduced into that has passed through the dirt separation member, the centrifugal separation member being disposed in the dirt separation member,

wherein the centrifugal separation member has an inlet port into which the remaining dirt particles and the portion of the suctioned suction air stream are introduced; and an air stream guide portion provided near the inlet port to direct the [[suctioned]] portion of the suction air stream to the inlet port, and

wherein the portion of the suction air stream is suctioned into the electric blower via the centrifugal separation member; and the remaining portion of the suction air stream introduced into dirt separation member is suctioned into the electric blower via a communication aperture of the dirt separation member.

7. (Previously Presented) An electric vacuum cleaner comprising:

an electric blower for generating a suction air stream;

a dirt separation member for separating and trapping therein dirt particles from the suction air stream; and

a centrifugal separation member for centrifugally separating remaining dirt particles from a suctioned air stream that has passed through the dirt separation member, the centrifugal separation member being detachably disposed in the dirt separation member,

wherein the centrifugal separation member has an inlet port into which the remaining dirt particles and the suctioned air stream are introduced; and a dirt removing portion is installed on an inner surface of the dirt separation member and is substantially in contact with the inlet port when detaching the centrifugal separation member from the dirt separation member.

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8. (Original) An electric vacuum cleaner comprising:

an electric blower for generating a suction air stream;

a dirt separation member for separating and collecting therein dirt particles from the suction air stream;

a centrifugal separation member for centrifugally separating remaining dirt particles from a suctioned air stream that has passed through the dirt separation member, the centrifugal separation member being detachably disposed in the dirt separation member; and

a dirt receptacle for accumulating therein the remaining dirt particles centrifugally separated by the centrifugal separation member, the dirt receptacle being integrally formed on the centrifugal separation member, wherein the dirt receptacle has an opening, the opening being blocked by the dirt separation member when the centrifugal separation member is placed in the dirt separation member.

9. (Currently Amended) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein the air stream guide portion runs substantially parallel to a flow direction of the ~~suctioned~~ suction air stream being introduced into the inlet port ~~having passed through the dirt separation member~~.

10. (New) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 4, wherein the centrifugal separation member has an inlet port into which the remaining dirt particles and the suctioned air stream are introduced; and an air stream guide portion provided near the inlet port to direct the suctioned air stream to the inlet port.

11. (New) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 10, wherein the air stream guide portion

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runs substantially parallel to a direction of the suctioned air stream having passed through the dirt separation member.

12. (New) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 7, wherein the centrifugal separation member has an inlet port into which the remaining dirt particles and the suctioned air stream are introduced; and an air stream guide portion provided near the inlet port to direct the suctioned air stream to the inlet port.

13. (New) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 12, wherein the air stream guide portion runs substantially parallel to a direction of the suctioned air stream having passed through the dirt separation member.

14. (New) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 8, wherein the centrifugal separation member has an inlet port into which the remaining dirt particles and the suctioned air stream are introduced; and an air stream guide portion provided near the inlet port to direct the suctioned air stream to the inlet port.

15. (New) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 14, wherein the air stream guide portion runs substantially parallel to a direction of the suctioned air stream having passed through the dirt separation member.

16. (New) The electric vacuum cleaner of claim 6, wherein the communication aperture is provided at a bottom portion of the dirt separation member.